

SWHP

The Horse Hospital

Newsletter of the Society for the Welfare of Horses and Ponies

Winter 2013

NEW HOPE

We are relieved and thrilled to tell you all that Tommy Price has finally been sentenced for his acts of cruelty and neglect to horses. Many of our supporters will know that over the last 15 years we have had dealings with Mr Price, and during this time we have rescued approximately 60 of his horses, all being very ill, abandoned or involved in accidents on the roads where they have escaped from paddocks and fields of inadequate grazing.

Back in 2010 we rescued 10 colt foals which had been abandoned and left to die in a wood, all belonging to Mr Price. This was by far the largest number we have ever taken in on one occasion and it stretched our resources and finances to the limits. We are pleased to report that every one of the 10 horses are thriving and out in wonderful homes.



Gus, far right, one of the 10 horses



Gus Summer 2013

The larger equine organisations have been publicising their involvement with bringing Mr Price to justice and we are so relieved that they were able to step in to help resolve the problem. They may not have had the years of involvement with him and experience that the SWHP has, but with a united front, he has finally been brought to justice.

We do worry about this winter however. Mr Price is reported to have around 2000 equines, and although he has been given the opportunity to sell and dispose of his animals before going into prison, we wonder how many will turn up abandoned in fields with no one at all to care for them. Only time will tell, but we think there will be a huge responsibility put on the councils and equine charities to help this winter.



Baloo January 2011



Baloo September 2013



*Cobs being herded
down the road*



Cobs found in a shed

SOUTH WALES COMMONS AND MOUNTAINS – HAY APPEAL

We are still very concerned about the ponies and horses which have been dumped on the mountains and commons in Wales. There are a large number of non native breeds which have been abandoned and who will not come through this winter without help. Last winter we and other organisations were dropping hay up to the mountains and the commons on a weekly basis to be distributed and this year we will undoubtedly be doing the same.

We would like to thank the many people who have donated hay to us this summer and if you would like to donate money or hay for this very reason please do make contact with us. We are currently paying between £3.50 and £4.00 for a small bale of hay. Over the last 12 months our hay bill amounted to £5,200. Our bill would have been significantly bigger if it hadn't been for the kindness of our members donating good quality hay. THANK YOU.

Last winter, people near to the situation became so desperate that they were taking up vegetable peelings and anything they could think of to help the horses. Unfortunately one stallion had to be put down, with our assistance, due to serious colic brought on by being fed frozen carrots.



*A pony taken in from Manmoel Common
April 2013 in a desperate condition*

FLY GRAZING

This brings us on to another subject that we have spoken at length about over the years; the implementation of Micro-Chipping and Passporting. Back in Oct. 2011 Jenny MacGregor and Sian Lloyd along with our Shetland Ambassador Sebastian presented a Petition with over 2,200 signatures to the Welsh Assembly in Cardiff, calling for the enforcement of the Micro-chipping laws which would help enable us to identify the owners of those horses abandoned and taken in to care.

We have been regularly attending meetings with Ministers from all parties alongside other Equine Charities and local authorities. The 'horse meat scandal', has of course brought this subject to the forefront. We are delighted that on 14th Oct almost two years to the day we presented our Petition, Alun Davies AM, Minister for Natural Resources and Food laid before the National Assembly for Wales, the Control of Horses (Wales) Bill and issued a written legislative statement.

The Bill will provide all the Welsh local authorities with identical powers to seize, impound, return to the owners and, as a last resort euthanase by humane means when they are on land without the owner's consent.

To coincide with the laying of the Bill the Minister announced the publication of the Welsh Government's Action Plan. The plan sets out how working with other interested parties the Government proposed to deal with related issues including improved education and awareness especially on horse breeding and ownership and stricter equine identification laws.

The Minister stated how important it was that local authorities, charities, the Police and Welsh Government work together as closely and effectively as they have been in recent months to stamp out fly - grazing in Wales.

([www.wales.gov.uk/newsroom/
environmentandcountryside/2013/7963232/?lang=en](http://www.wales.gov.uk/newsroom/environmentandcountryside/2013/7963232/?lang=en))

Many organisations have worked hard to bring about this Bill and Wales are leading the way to tackle these issues. It is certainly hoped that Westminster will take heed and follow. Like all Equine Charities we have been fully stretched in terms of space and finances and are dreading the number of horses that will be in need this winter. The number of reported incidents to the various agencies has seen an increase of 200% in 2012 over the same period in 2011.



*Jenny MacGregor & Sebastian presenting
the petition back in October 2011*

MANMOEL COMMON

Over the last year we have been asked to take in a total of 12 ponies from Manmoel Common all in a serious need of help. We wanted to highlight just a couple of the cases below.

BOO

BOO – a Cob x TB mare who was very thin, poor and completely covered in lice and full of redworm. Our only option was to clip her to get rid of the lice. She would not have survived much longer out on the common without our intervention. She is now making great progress.



Boo May 2013



Boo August 2013

AMY

AMY – Section A mare who was so weak she couldn't get up when she lay down. She was very heavily in foal and there was not a spare bit of flesh on her; she was literally skin and bone. She had been here only one month when she tried to foal but was so exhausted the foal became stuck half way out. Our aged chairperson, Jenny, was the only one on the yard, so for the first time in her life she had to help deliver the foal. It was a very strong colt and he was standing up long before his mother. As Jenny had helped at his birth it was decided that she should name him. He is now known as Tod. We didn't think either would survive so all ended very happily.



Amy and Tod



Tod at just 5 minutes old



Amy looking much healthier – Oct 2013



Tod looking very smart – October 2013

DUKE

DUKE – A five month old coloured colt was found on the common with a very serious infection down his neck, he was in a very sorry state and needed urgent help. Anne Keating and her helpers caught him and we took him straight over to Abbey Vets for treatment. Unfortunately his mother was so wild she was unable to be caught and she ran off with the rest of the herd of ponies.

Once Duke was back at the SWHP Lilly, one of our elderly mares immediately adopted him and whilst we were in charge of feeding him the foal milk, she was in charge of teaching him how to be a foal. All in all great teamwork by Lilly and the SWHP staff; Lilly is worth her weight in gold. Duke is now fully recovered and has a lovely new home lined up for him. As soon as Duke is re-homed we have our new foal, Trevor, for Lilly to look after.



Duke with Lilly

We also took in a group of 4 mares, two of which were in foal, one has since had her foal and the other one is due any time now. It is not a great time of year to be having a foal, but at least we will be able to give her and her foal all the care they need.

TREVOR

We received numerous calls from very concerned members of the public about a foal which had been tethered to a tree besides a dual carriageway in Cardiff. When we got there he was covered in mud from head to toe, had no food or water and was far too young to be without his mother. The rope was very worn and there was a risk that it might break; the little colt could have caused a serious road accident.

We loaded him into our trailer and had him back at the SWHP within a couple of hours. He was extremely dazed



Trevor and Georgie two days after his rescue

and was probably in shock. Looking at him we believe he is about 4 months old, and being so young we decided to put Georgie the goat with him for companionship.

Over the first couple of weeks, Trevor really started to pick up and he loved his milk pellets and stud & youngstock mix. He was turned out daily in Jenny's front garden with Georgie and enjoyed the grass and freedom. We were relieved that there seemed to be nothing wrong with him and are sure he will make someone a wonderful riding cob in the future.

No owner has come forward to date - this is just one of the many horses and ponies which are being abandoned.



Trevor enjoying a lie down in his lovely bed

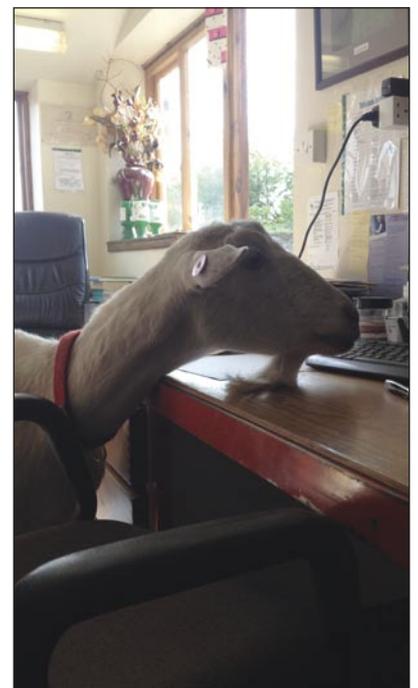
HOOPER

He was rescued from Gelligaer Common back in 2002 as a 3 year old. He was found lying up against a wall unable to move; he had to be carried to the trailer. Over the first 2 weeks he needed assistance to get to his feet as he was severely malnourished and very weak. We suspected that he had been turned out on to the common to die. The good news is that he has been a real success story. He has been out in the same home for the last 11 years with a wonderful keeper who has broken him to harness and here he is pictured having just won a bronze medal in both classes at Sunnybank Equestrain Centre Welsh Championships October 2013.



RIP GEORGIE

Since writing this newsletter, Georgie the goat has sadly died of old age. She was an amazing companion to at least three needy foals over the last year and she will be sorely missed.



ROBERT LEESE

Robert approached us to ask if we would like to be the charity he supported when he undertook an epic ride across Merthyr Mountain. His plan was to take four unbroken cobs and that by the time he completed the week long ride, they would be backed. At the beginning we were dubious of being attached to this 'young cowboy', but decided that before we dismissed the idea, to invite him to meet us. We have to say we were very impressed with him and his idea's and wholeheartedly agreed to be involved.

The ride was launched at the Royal Welsh Show this year and then a day later he set off with a film crew and a vet. The weather was atrocious, and part of his planned route had become too wet to use. Nevertheless he made it, and raised an amazing £2000 for us.

Since then he has been approached by a film company to do more, and he has some impressive clips and film of the ride on Youtube which you can get to by searching his name or through our website. It is well worth a look. He has taken a mix of all the horse whisperers out there, and has done it his way. We have been very pleased to be associated with him, and I am sure you will hear more of him in the future.



Robert Leese

JOSIE PEARSON M.B.E. – AMBASSADOR FOR THE SWHP

We were contacted at the beginning of October 2013 by Josie as she was very interested in helping the SWHP in any way she could. We are proud and thrilled to announce that Josie is now an Ambassador for the SWHP. Here is a snippet of Josie's background:-

I've been horse mad ever since I can remember and eventually my mum gave in and took me to my first riding lesson when I was 4. I was the only one in my family that was horsey but it made me more determined to have a riding career. I dreamt about being the next Mary King and riding in the Olympics. All this was changed in an instant when I was involved in a car accident. I broke my neck and I'm now paralysed from my chest downwards. My life as I knew it would never be the same and I knew I'd never be able to ride my beloved George again. After months of rehabilitation I got back into sport. I first took up wheelchair rugby and was the first female to ever be selected to represent GB in rugby at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. I quickly realised that individual sport was my forte and switched to athletics. I'm now Paralympic, London 2013, and World, Lyon 2014, champion and gold medal winner in discus.



Josie riding her beloved George before her accident

I'm really proud to become an ambassador for SWHP which is such a wonderful charity and I hope to help in any way I can.



Josie at London 2012 Paralympics

BEAR AND JACK OF LANTERNS



This year two SWHP horses have successfully entered into the area of Eventing. Bear has been featured in many of our previous newsletters and has gone from strength to strength. He is pictured here being ridden by Ross Millar – local event rider, schooling over one of the Chepstow Horse Trials fences earlier this year.

Jack of Lanterns was rescued back in 2008 from council land near Bridgend with two other horses. All three had been abandoned and were in very poor order. He was rehomed with Jane in 2011 and she has done an amazing job with him.



FUNDRAISING

We would like to thank the SWHP fundraising committee and also all the individual fundraisers out there who give their time and energy to raise valuable funds for the SWHP. There are far too many of you to mention, but you know who you are. THANK YOU. We wouldn't be able to continue our work without your help. Please don't hesitate to give us a call or send us an e-mail if you would like to set up a fundraising event, we'd love to hear about it.

CHANNEL SWIM

A very courageous lady called Charlotte contacted us last year to say she was going to swim the channel and would like to raise money for us along with three other charities. We were thrilled to have been chosen by her and to date she has already raised £1159.00. She is in training and plans to do the swim in August 2014. Please see her web page www.chchch.co.uk or go to our website where you can link through to her page and donations page. Good luck Charlotte.



ANNUAL DUCK RACE UPDATE

Ducks sold: 1,571, Money raised: £ 1,441. Congratulations Nicky Ingram who won 1st prize, and to 2nd prize winner Mark Temple. Third and fourth prize winners kindly donated their winnings back to us. We would also like to say a huge thank you to Mr & Mrs Williams and Chris and Alan who came at the last minute to help fish out the ducks – it's really appreciated.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

SUNDAY 1ST DECEMBER – Annual Christmas Open Day at the SWHP 11am to 3pm

For full details of all our events please visit our website www.swhp.co.uk or call us on 01600 750233

CASH FOR CLOTHES

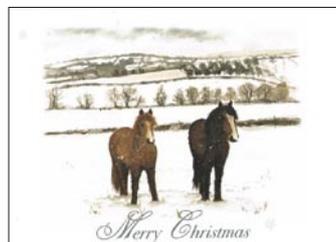
Thank you to everyone who has donated clothes and other items to us this year. We are so pleased to tell you that we have raised £800 so far, which is wonderful. We will be collecting clean clothes, CD's, Shoes in pairs, handbags, books and old mobile phones again at our Christmas Open Day 1st December. Great excuse for a sort out just before Christmas, and all proceeds go to the horses and ponies.

CARE AND COMPARE

We are so thrilled to have been chosen by Care and Compare as one of their charities which will benefit from any business going through their new comparison website, www.careandcompare.com It is a site with a difference, they donate 25% of their monthly profits to charity. Please go and have a look, and if you decide to take out a policy through them then the SWHP will benefit.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

This Year's Christmas Cards packs : two designs of SWHP equines to include their histories, 10 cards per pack. £5 to include postage or £4 collected from SWHP or Wye Valley Country Stores, Wonastow Estate, Monmouth. Also available at our CHRISTMAS OPEN DAY, Sunday 1st December.



Christmas Cards -
(above) Peter and Starsky
(right) Slipper



NEWSFLASH

We are going through the process of being able to take payments over the phone for the first time, please bare with us, we hope to be up and running end of November beginning of December 2013***

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